

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. IX, No. 9

April 5, 1930

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Cancer Deaths Increase

Cancer deaths in California increased by 117 in 1929, a total of 6518 residents of California having died of this disease last year, an average of 18 deaths for each day of the year. This represents a cancer death rate of 146.4 per 100,000 population as compared with a similar rate of 95.9 per 100,000 population for the United States in 1928. For the first time in the history of California, in 1928, cancer deaths exceeded tuberculosis deaths in number, and in 1929, the excess in cancer deaths over tuberculosis was increased from 328 in 1928 to 663 in 1929. Each year the number of cancer deaths in California increases, consistently, while the number of tuberculosis deaths declines, almost consistently, each year. Cancer caused 10 per cent of all deaths in California in 1929, and tuberculosis caused less than 9 per cent of the total number of deaths that occurred within the state.

The migration of large numbers of retired elderly individuals to California is, perhaps, a factor in the production of a high cancer death rate for this state, just as the migration to California of large numbers of tuberculous individuals is a factor in the production of a high tuberculosis death rate. Out of the total of 6518 cancer deaths in 1929, only 874 were in persons who were born in California, 3447 were in persons born in other states and 2153 were in persons born in foreign countries with nativity of the the remaining 44 decedents unknown.

Most deaths from cancer occur in those who are past 45 years of age. The following table shows the

age distribution of cancer decedents in California in 1929:

Age group	Number
Under 1 year	5
One to 4 years	19
Five to 14 years	12
Fifteen to 24 years	33
Twenty-five to 34 years	124
Thirty-five to 44 years	515
Forty-five to 54 years	1189
Fifty-five to 64 years	1694
Over 65 years	2927

Cancer causes more deaths in women than in men. There were 3376 such deaths in women last year and 3142 in men. Comparatively few individuals of races other than white died of cancer in 1929. The distribution of deaths, by races, is as follows:

White	6126
Mexican	211
Negro	62
Chinese	52
Japanese	43
Indian	13
Others	11
Total	6518

A wise man won't worry about his health, but bids his doctor bear that burden.—Miles F. Porter.

MANY CRIPPLED CHILDREN RECEIVE AID

A total of 158 crippled California children have received treatment through the State Department of Public Health since the crippled child act went into effect a little more than two years ago. Thirty such children are, at the present time, under care in hospitals; 82 are no longer hospitalized; 9 have been dismissed as cured or greatly improved; 5 are in convalescent homes; 16 have not been placed in hospitals and the cases of 14 such children are now pending. The services of 28 surgeons have been used in providing treatment for these 158 children, who live in 37 different counties of the state. The facilities of 27 different hospitals have been used in the hospitalization of these crippled patients. In cooperation with the State Department of Public Health, the California Society for Crippled Children has examined crippled children in 14 different cities of the state. A total of 662 children received examinations in these places. Wherever possible these patients were referred to private physicians for treatment. Only 5 per cent of the total number examined were found to present conditions which were not hopeful of correction, and 5 per cent were over the age limit and their cases were referred to service clubs for assistance. In those communities where there are local societies for crippled children—Glendale, Stockton, Humboldt, Kern and Fresno counties—cases were referred to such local societies for supervision and assistance.

The State Department of Public Health in its surveys of crippled children has located no less than 1485 crippled children within the state. There were 2095 home visits or investigations of cases made in 51 counties of the state during the past two years. Repeated visits to hospitals for crippled children and convalescent homes have been made during the past two years.

TOP MINNOWS HELP CONTROL MOSQUITOES

The State Department of Public Health has assisted many communities of California, during the past year, in the control of mosquitoes and malaria. Many mosquito abatement districts, scattered throughout the state, have taken advantage of the services of the department's engineer who is in charge of mosquito control. A total of 1700 acres, in 18 such districts, have been under supervision during the past year. A total of 110,000 gallons of oil were used in mosquito abatement work, and 25,000 top minnows, which are effective in the destruction of mosquito larvae, were distributed in small lots in a very large number of counties of the state.

CHILD HYGIENE HELPS RURAL CHILDREN

During the past eight months, the Bureau of Child Hygiene of the State Department of Public Health has conducted, on regular schedules, physical examinations of children in the rural districts of 35 different counties of the state. During that time, a total of 5873 examinations were made by three staff physicians. These examinations have been extended, mostly, to children in the extreme rural districts of the state, where adequate facilities for carrying on such work are lacking. During this time, 86 talks to an audience of more than 5000 women have been given by members of the staff. More than 70,000 pieces of literature have been distributed on request, and, in addition, more than 3000 sets of letters giving prenatal advice to prospective mothers have been distributed.

Renewals of licenses have been issued to more than 200 licensed maternity homes and hospitals. New licenses have been issued to 53 new such institutions, and 75 investigations have been made. California now has a maternity bed capacity of 3918 beds in 438 institutions, all of which are inspected annually by the Bureau of Child Hygiene. There is a continual improvement noted in the type of these institutions and in the service rendered. It is believed that maternity homes and hospitals in California are meeting the needs of the medical profession more adequately since close supervision has been maintained.

NINETY-TWO AIRPLANE DEATHS IN CALIFORNIA LAST YEAR

A sharp increase in the numbers of deaths from airplane accidents has occurred in California during the past two years. In 1927 there were but 27 deaths from this cause, while in 1928 there were 87 such deaths and in 1929 there were 92 fatalities in airplane accidents. The rate per 100,000 population for deaths from this cause is 1.9 for both years of 1928 and 1929. The total number of deaths from airplane accidents in California during the past ten years is 371.

AIRPLANE DEATHS IN CALIFORNIA

Year	Number	Rate per 100,000 population
1929	92	1.9
1928	87	1.9
1927	27	0.6
1926	24	0.6
1925	22	0.5
1924	27	0.7
1923	20	0.5
1922	19	0.5
1921	26	0.7
1920	27	0.8
Total	371	

ACTIVITIES IN EGG INSPECTION

During the last month, 237 egg inspections have been made by the field men in the Bureau of Foods and Drugs. Violations, which amount to about one-third of the inspections, were due not to poor quality but to mislabeling, in that medium sized eggs were labeled as large, or were not labeled at all. According to law, unlabeled eggs must be large, or weigh on an average 24 ounces to the dozen.

Warnings and instructions were given at each place where violations occurred, and, in accordance with the reports of the inspectors, the dealers were more than willing to revise their labels so as to conform to the provisions of the California Egg Law.

Practically all of the inspections noted were made in interior towns, and it should be further stated that the violations found were mainly in Imperial Valley. The reports from the large centers of population indicate a very satisfactory condition. The intensive survey is still being carried on.

KINGS COUNTY CHILDREN RECEIVE DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION

The State Department of Public Health, during the past month, has assisted in the immunization against diphtheria of children in Kings County. This work has been carried on in 26 schools of Hanford, Corcoran, Lemoore, Armona, Grangeville and rural districts of the county. The communities involved appropriated funds to meet the cost for the purchase of the materials used. A public health nurse from the State Department of Public Health assisted the local health officer in this work, and the equipment of the State Department of Public Health was loaned. This lessened the cost greatly to the community. A total of 3473 children of Kings County received this protection against diphtheria.

DANGEROUS CONNECTIONS BETWEEN REFRIGERATORS AND SEWERS

Doctor J. M. Furstman, District Health Officer for Monrovia, calls attention to the fact that gas refrigerators are being installed with the cooling water connected directly to house sewers, occasioning an undesirable and perhaps dangerous cross connection between the sewer and the city water supply. These cross connections are being eliminated by requiring that the cooling water flow through the air into a collector attached to the sewer and having a water-sealed trap. The minimum space between the water line and the sewer connection is three inches.

CITY AND CROSS CONNECTOR HELD EQUALLY LIABLE FOR CROSS CONNECTION

Damages have recently been awarded for death for water-borne typhoid fever due to the pollution of the city water of Fort Wayne, Indiana, through a cross connection with the polluted river supply of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

The decision, which has been confirmed by the appellate court, is important in that both the railroad company and the city are held responsible and liable. This was a cross connection in which there were two open gate valves on each side of a swinging check valve, which it was found would not seat so as to prevent river water flowing into the city water main.

There is reason to suppose there are many such cross connections existing within the State of California.

If there is any possible means of increasing the common wisdom and ability of mankind, it must be sought in medicine.—*Descartes*.

Let the surgeon be well educated, skilful, ready and courteous. Let him be bold in those things that are safe, fearful in those that are dangerous, avoiding all evil methods and practices.—*Gui De Chauliac*.

MORBIDITY*

Diphtheria.

51 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 3, Livermore 5, Oakland 2, Fresno County 1, Brawley 1, Kern County 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 6, Glendale 2, Los Angeles 7, Lynwood 1, Orange County 3, Orange 1, Santa Ana 2, San Bernardino 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 6, Daly City 1, San Jose 2, Watsonville 1, Benicia 1, Sonoma County 1.

Scarlet Fever.

180 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda 5, Berkeley 1, Oakland 11, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 6, Fresno 1, Sanger 1, Humboldt County 1, Eureka 2, Kern County 8, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 2, Alhambra 1, Glendale 6, Huntington Park 3, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 45, Pasadena 1, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 3, Monterey Park 1, Marin County 1, Monterey County 2, Pacific Grove 1, Orange County 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 2, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 3, Chula Vista 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 36, Stockton 3, Tracy 2, San Luis Obispo 1, Redwood City 2, San Mateo 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 2, San Jose 1, Shasta County 5, Santa Rosa 1, Red Bluff 1.

Measles.

2173 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda 49, Berkeley 13, Oakland 236, San Leandro 4, Jackson 2, Colusa 1, Contra Costa County 12, Antioch 6, Hercules 2, Martinez 3, Pinole 7, Pittsburg 2, Richmond 1, Crescent City 1, Fresno County 3, Fresno 21, Brawley 11, Calexico 4, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 254, Alhambra 11, Burbank 1, Claremont 1, Compton 11, El Monte 4, El Segundo 1, Glendale 48, Huntington Park 2, Inglewood 4, Long Beach 95, Los Angeles 473, Monrovia 1, Montebello 1, Pasadena 48, Pomona 15, San Fernando 24, San Gabriel 1, San Marino 5,

*From reports received on March 31st and April 1st for week ending March 29th.

"The vision-forming years are the years of youth."

Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, Hawthorne 3, South Gate 19, Monterey Park 15, Signal Hill 5, Maywood 1, Tujunga 6, Bell 8, Corte Madera 1, Ross 1, Merced County 15, Los Banos 5, Merced 19, Monterey County 1, Salinas 1, Napa 1, Orange County 17, Anaheim 4, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 3, Seal Beach 1, La Habra 4, Lincoln 2, Plumas County 3, Riverside 3, Sacramento County 5, Sacramento 20, Ontario 3, San Bernardino 27, San Diego County 1, San Diego 6, San Francisco 367, San Joaquin County 16, Lodi 23, Stockton 23, San Mateo County 2, Redwood City 1, Santa Barbara 5, Santa Clara County 51, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 49, Santa Clara 1, Sunnyvale 1, Watsonville 1, Siskiyou County 6, Yreka 3, Sonoma County 7, Petaluma 2, Santa Rosa 25, Stanislaus County 2, Modesto 3, Woodland 1.

Smallpox.

120 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 2, Brawley 36, Imperial 3, Kern County 12, Los Angeles County 5, Alhambra 1, El Monte 2, Glendale 1, Glendora 1, Inglewood 6, Los Angeles 2, Montebello 4, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, Merced County 1, Salinas 1, Orange County 2, Santa Ana 1, Riverside County 2, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 3, Redlands 3, San Bernardino 2, Upland 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 4, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Clara 1, Benicia 4, Tulare County 5, Yuba County 9.

Typhoid Fever.

Yreka reported one case of typhoid fever.

Whooping Cough.

205 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda 7, Oakland 8, Contra Costa County 3, Fresno 3, Sanger 1, Eureka 1, Kern County 2, Kings County 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 16, Alhambra 1, Arcadia 1, Culver City 1, Inglewood 3, Long Beach 19, Los Angeles 34, Pasa-

dena 2, Pomona 1, Whittier 1, Orange County 8, Anaheim 5, Fullerton 1, Newport Beach 2, Orange 9, Santa Ana 6, Riverside County 6, Sacramento 2, Colton 1, Redlands 2, San Diego County 20, San Diego 15, San Francisco 2, San Joaquin County 11, Stockton 2, San Luis Obispo County 3, Tulare County 2, Ventura County 1, Winters 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

6 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 4.

Leprosy.

Riverside County reported one case of leprosy.

Poliomyelitis.

2 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, San Francisco 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic).

2 cases of epidemic encephalitis have been reported, as follows: Kern County 1, Los Angeles 1.

Trichinosis.

Santa Clara County reported one case of trichinosis.

Food Poisoning.

Los Angeles County reported 30 cases of food poisoning.

Undulant Fever.

Humboldt County reported one case of undulant fever.

Coccidioidal Granuloma.

Orange County reported one case of coccidioidal granuloma.

NOTE.—Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1930				1929			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Mar. 29 received by April 1	Week ending			Reports for week ending Mar. 30 received by April 2
	Mar. 8	Mar. 15	Mar. 22		Mar. 9	Mar. 16	Mar. 23	
Botulism	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1
Chickenpox	608	625	697	594	710	719	627	440
Coccidioidal Granuloma	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	58	77	56	51	43	61	58	33
Dysentery (Amoebic)	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1
Dysentery (Bacillary)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	1	0	2	2	2	4	2	1
Erysipelas	14	17	19	13	18	23	17	24
Food Poisoning	17	0	6	30	0	0	1	0
German Measles	39	60	39	25	33	36	49	56
Gonococcus Infection	135	154	101	97	126	123	131	107
Hookworm	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	57	34	35	38	161	117	104	84
Leprosy	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	2
Malaria	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	2
Measles	1,601	1,909	1,987	2,173	70	63	62	61
Meningitis (Epidemic)	6	7	15	6	22	19	21	47
Mumps	799	794	976	805	547	570	593	400
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Pellagra	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Pneumonia (Lobar)	58	68	44	62	114	102	82	78
Poliomyelitis	3	4	2	2	0	3	7	0
Rabies (Human)	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Rabies (Animal)	22	16	40	24	29	18	13	14
Scarlet Fever	227	219	192	180	534	552	503	334
Smallpox	68	114	101	120	77	89	45	56
Syphilis	197	249	178	150	221	153	165	118
Tetanus	1	4	1	0	0	0	3	1
Trachoma	2	0	2	2	1	2	1	11
Trichinosis	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	272	214	256	264	278	250	241	225
Typhoid Fever	10	8	8	1	15	6	15	5
Undulant Fever	1	3	2	1	1	3	0	1
Whooping Cough	179	177	210	205	210	262	282	204
Totals	4,381	4,758	4,981	4,854	3,221	3,177	3,024	2,307



Measles shot up to 2173 cases reported last week.



Smallpox is widespread in prevalence, reaching a new high level last week.



But one case of typhoid fever was reported in the state—a new low record.



Mumps is still running high.

